

YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

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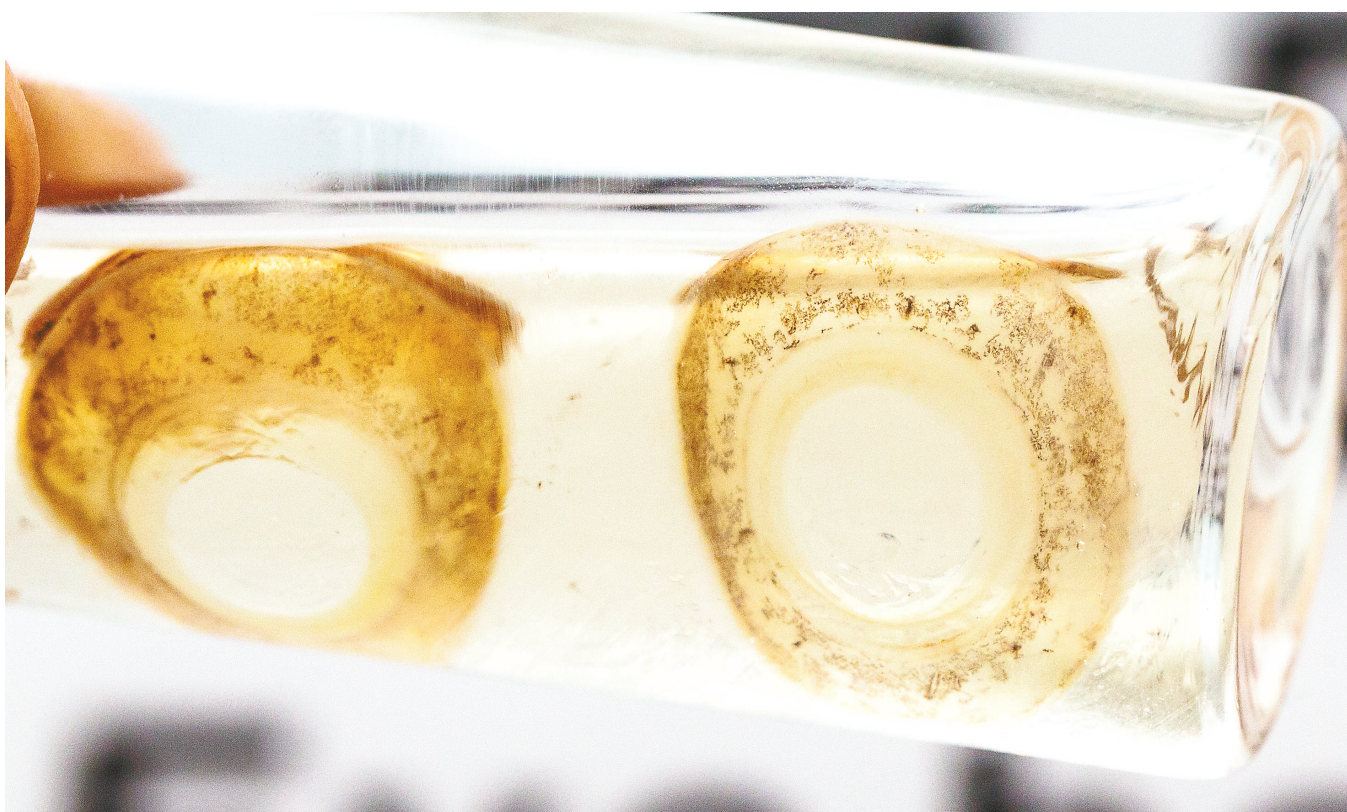
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Neglectful parents and endless tests are taking a toll on teen mental health. **Page 4**

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Giving Life in Death

When Xiaofei died during the Duanwu Festival, his family made the life-saving decision to donate his organs.

Xiaofei became the 19th organ donor in history at You'an Hospital. His liver and corneas changed three lives. **Page 2**

Cyber Security Draft Opens to Public Opinion

BY WANG YAN

The National People's Congress (NPC) published its draft cyber security law on July 6.

The draft law aims "to ensure network security and safeguard the sovereignty of cyberspace and national security," according to the NPC's official website. It will further ensure Chinese Internet users aren't "allowed to disturb the social order, and harm the public interest."

In an editorial, *The People's Daily* said the draft is intended to create a sense of public order and maintain "cyberspace sovereignty."

The proposal, released for public opinion on July 13, also provides that the

Chinese government can sever Internet access in any location or nationwide during "sudden and mass incidents."

Public opinion will be collected through August, the NPC said. It is attempting to position the law as a way to guarantee privacy and protection from hackers to casual Internet users.

"The 68-article draft cyber security law, which was discussed by lawmakers for the first time late last month, is designed to protect the public, not to undermine their freedom, as Western media claimed," congress delegates told Xinhua News Agency.

Technology experts said the new law threatens to disrupt business and stifle

innovation in the tech sector.

Some said the annual audits and demands to give the government oversight over all source code would slow down technology research and decrease direct investment from foreign venture capitalists. ■



CHINESE STOCK INDEXES

SSE (Shanghai)

Close	Change	YTD
3,823.18	▲ 17.47 (0.46%)	+19.71%

SZSE (Shenzhen)

Close	Change	YTD
12,357.61	▲ 225.19 (1.86%)	+12.95%

HSI (Hong Kong)

Close	Change	YTD
25,162.78	▲ 107.02 (0.43%)	+9.00%

Accurate to market close on July 16, 2015





CFP Photos

Beijing Organ Donor Gives Three Lives

BY DIAO DIAO

A Beijing resident gave the world a liver and two corneas when he died from cerebral hemorrhage shortly after the Duanwu Festival.

Xiaofei spent his last holiday vacation at home with his family when a sudden headache quickly turned into a coma. He was sent to the hospital, which performed a craniotomy and found a hematoma in his brain.

Doctors removed his hematoma, but the surgery was followed cerebral hemorrhage and intracranial infection. He died after six days of intensive care and multiple surgeries.

Xiaofei's father made the unusual deci-

sion to donate his son's organs.

Wang Lu, an officer at the donation office of Beijing You'an Hospital, said the decision came over the weekend and that the donation staff had to be called back to the hospital.

Xiaofei's girlfriend was present during the surgery to harvest his organs. She said they had hoped to get married at the end of the year, but she felt happy Xiaofei would be able to help others.

His liver was transplanted into another Beijing man and his corneas were donated to two other patients.

Xiaofei is only the 19th person to donate his organs after death in the history of You'an

Hospital. Organ donation remains a rare and precious phenomenon in China.

Chen Jingyu, a member of Organ Transplant Branch of the Chinese Medical Association and director of lungs transplants for Wuxi, Zhejiang province, said on Weibo that dozens of patients in his ward are waiting for organs.

The situation is the same in big cities. Liu Deruo, director of the Department of Thoracic Surgery at China-Japan Friendship Hospital, said that the hospital had not been able to complete a lung transplant in the last four years due to a lack of organs.

The China-Japan Friendship Hospital was the first Chinese hospital to transplant a pair of lungs.

Huang Jiefu, chairman of China's Organ Donation and Transplantation Committee, said a lack of suppliers is only part of the problem.

Many people give up surgery because of the expense. Even for those who can afford it, a doctor can be difficult to locate. There are only several hundred doctors with transplant experience nationwide, and only 169 hospitals possess the certifications necessary to perform transplants. ■

City to Reform its Confusing Bus System

BY WANG YAN



Photo by tieba.baidu.com



Photo by hexun.com

Beijing's public bus authority is attempting to sort out the city's notoriously confusing bus schedules.

Beijing Youth Daily reported that the city now has 12,700 bus stops and more than 43,000 bus information boards. However, many of the boards are confusing and refer to single stops by multiple names. Unreasonable long distances between stops are a frequent complaint of the city's commuters.

Beijing Bus said it is polling residents about problematic bus signs. The month-long survey includes detailed questions about the typeface, wording and height of the boards.

Commuters previously appealed for bus stops to display more practical information, similar to the exit guides used in the Beijing subway. Many passengers do not know which way to go after getting off at the correct stop.

Hong Chongyue, manger of Beijing Bus, said the company will listen to commuters' advice and that bus boards will be "more unified" in the future. Future boards may be "more Internet based," he said. Commuters may be given real-time information about the bus schedule and will be notified when emergencies occur.

Hong said Beijing Bus also plans to launch a competition for bus stop and bus board designs. ■

Stock Market Rollercoaster Attracts Teens

BY WANG YAN

China's stock market has been capturing headlines on major news organizations for almost two weeks. But the stock market – often likened to a casino by its critics – is attracting many high school students as new players.

Qin Han (pseudonym), a high school student in Beijing's National Day School, told *Beijing Youth Daily* that he started to invest in stock market when he was 16. On good days he can earn as much as 200-300 yuan, he said.

Qin, along with 10 other classmates formed a "Securities Club" at their school last month. Members received access to a public account and deposited more than 30,000 yuan from their pocket money.

"My first investment was around 10,000 yuan. It was all the allowance money I saved throughout my school years," said a 15-year-old student identified as Le.

While returns differed, most of the students told the paper in mid-June that they had earned some money.

"I have already recovered my 10,000 yuan and earned another 5,000 yuan," Le said.

That number sounds modest, but Qin's return may surprise grown-ups. After investing 16,000 yuan in 2012, his earnings now stand at 150,000 yuan.

"I used the money to pay my tuition and buy the phone I wanted. Sometimes my dad took my money to pay the rent and mortgage. It doesn't bother me because



my money belongs to my family. But lately I'm having to stop him because it is affecting my investment strategy," Qin said.

Many experts say such small investments can help students to foster a better financing concept. But with China's stock market so unstable, investors warn students to be more cautious in their investment. ■

Gaokao's End Bring Divorce Spike

BY QU CHAONAN

Gaokao



The end of the National College Entrance Exam is a relief to both students and their parents, many of whom have spent years continuing their unhappy marriages.

Many couples choose to hide their marital troubles to avoid influencing children's studies. With the last great test out of the way, the months from June to September become a yearly spike in divorce.

Adolescent psychological consultant Jia Hongwu and senior marriage and family lawyer Zhou Hao both said they received 20 to 30 calls for help after this year's Gaokao.

Wang Ping (pseudonym) and her husband have been "weekend couple" for five years. The couple attempted to sign a divorce agreement in 2010, but their daughter fought back by refusing to study. With their daughter enrolled in a boarding school, the two pretended to be affectionate on the weekends.

Lin Jing's husband began grappling with a drug addiction in 2011. His uncontrollable temper resulted in frequent beatings. Three years ago, Lin gave up her plan to divorce since her daughter was close to her husband.

With exams out of the way, Lin has resumed the divorce process with the support of her daughter.

But psychologist Jia Hongwu said that breaking up so soon after the test is hardly helpful.

After the Gaokao, students must go through the stress of applying to university, moving out and adjusting to a new life.

"If the goal is really to spare their children, they might wait until some time in the fall semester when their children's new lives are more stable," Jia said. ■
(Qu Chaonan is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Yunnan Man Surprised to Learn Pet Dogs are Bears

A man surnamed Wang in Yunnan was surprised to learn his pet dogs were in fact moon bears that are protected by national law.

Wang said he purchased the "dogs" from a Vietnamese trader by the border. He said they were well-behaved and open to eating all kinds of food.

As the dogs continued to grow, he slowly began to realize they were in fact bears.

Wang discussed with his family and decided to turn his pets over to forestry authorities. The moon dogs are currently being housed in a wild animal rescue center.

(Tencent News)

Robot Stands in for Unapologetic Abe

It's been 70 years since the end of World War II and the Japanese media has announced Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's plans to express and his "deep remorse."

But for angry people too young to remember the war and energetic enough to smash their local yoshinoya, China's robotics experts have a solution.

A humanoid Shinzo Abe robot was recently sighted at the 2015 International Robot Exhibition in Shanghai. The lifelike robot bows to visitors and apologizes.

We would like to commend this robotics company for its brilliant marketing stunt. Unfortunately, none of the dozens of news reports bothered to mention its name.

(Ifeng)

Hairdresser Rapes Client, Offers Refund on the Cut

A Shanghai woman surnamed Liu was raped by a hair salon employee when he accompanied her to her house to collect her payment for the bill.

Liu reportedly spent 12,000 yuan on hair procedures at a salon on East Nanjing Road. Finding herself 7,000 yuan short, Liu was directed to get the money from her home. An employee surnamed Wang was sent to make sure she didn't run away.

After the brutal attack, Wang gave her back the 12,000 yuan and asked Liu not to call the police. She pretended to agree until the man left her house. He was arrested when he returned to the hair salon.

(The Paper)

Shandong Mayor Slashes Pollution, 60,000 Jobs

The mayor of Linyi, Shandong province made an unpopular but green choice. After being exposed for his city's extreme pollution by State media, he ordered the closure of 57 steel, concrete and coal plants.

While this rare victory may make some steps in alleviating the area's infamous pollution, it also put 60,000 people permanently out of work.

The regulatory body of a local bank said there are now 100 billion yuan in loans tied up in affected companies. Other businesses in city will probably be unable to receive new loans due to the bad record.

(Tencent News)

WeChat Accounts Fake Child Abduction to Win Followers

BY DIAO DIAO

WeChat was awash the last week in warning that human traffickers across the country were stepping up their efforts to snatch children.

The rumor began with a report that more than 100 people from across the country had come to Beijing to kidnap children. On June 16, several accounts reported witnessing abductions near the IKEA in Wangjing.

In spite of widespread denial and comments from the Beijing police, the rumors have only gained traction.

Police in districts across the city denied having ever heard of such a case.

Pingan Beijing, the official Weibo account of the Beijing Police, analyzed and published the template being used to generate new rumors: "Recently there are people pretending to be repairmen/icecream vendors/nurses by [name] community/school and grabbing children. They drive a [name] car and the number is [number]. The case has been confirmed by

110. Please forward this message to save more children and families," the template reads.

Beijing Police found that a single account operator published all the rumors. Many gave out another person's contact information and license plate, purportedly to get revenge.

In addition to individual posts, there are also accounts operated by teams and groups who use such news to attract followers.

Beijing Youth Daily reporters found that WeChat and Weibo accounts with thousands of followers have a value of more than 200,000 yuan on the black market.

An Internet company employee surnamed Cheng said he operates a WeChat account with more than 40,000 followers. Cheng said more than 80 percent of the promotions on the Internet are exaggerated or faked.

Though WeChat has a function of report abuse, it doesn't have an obligation to filter and supervise content published by accounts. ■



CFP Photos

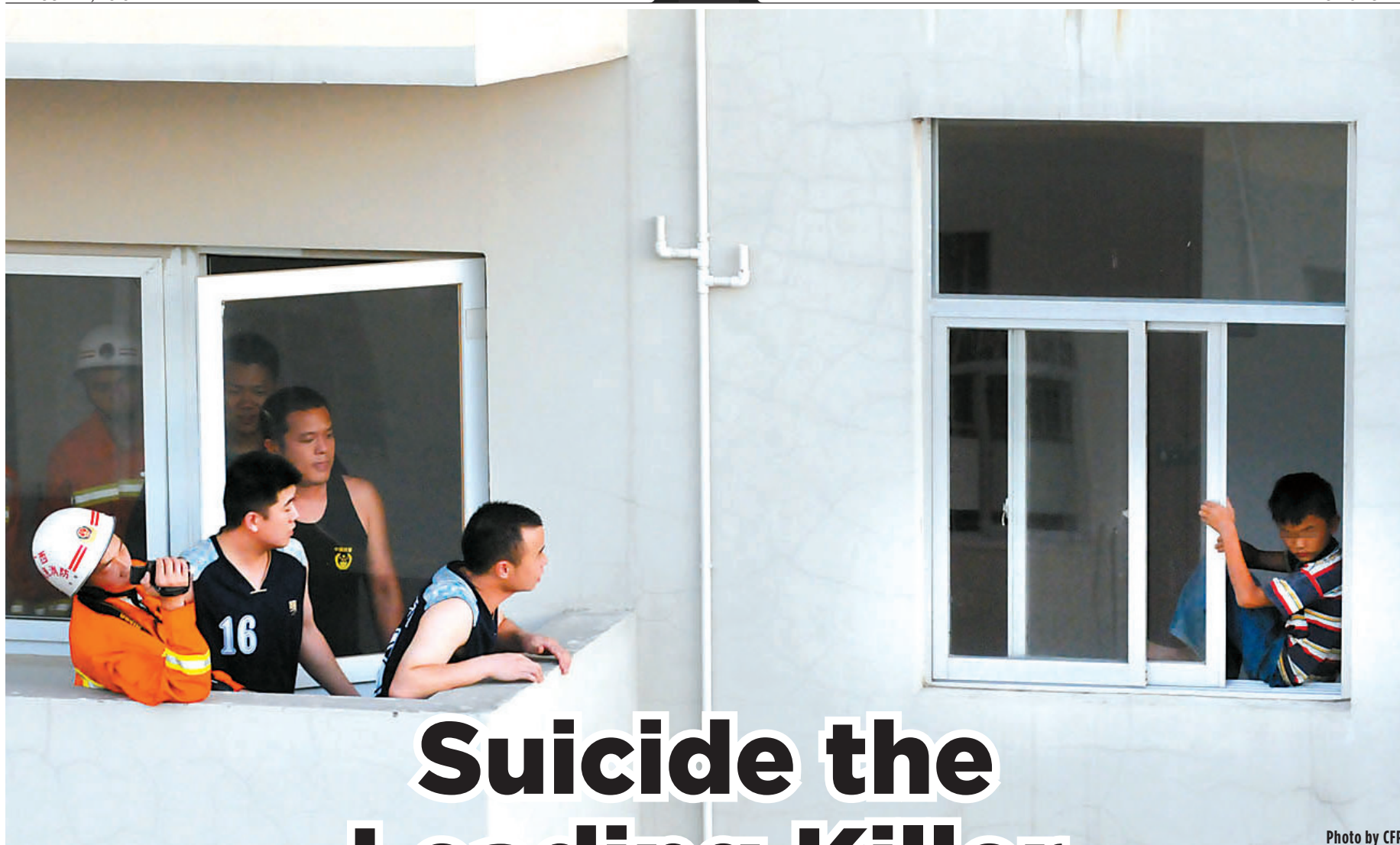


Photo by CFP

Suicide the Leading Killer of China's Teens

BY DIAO DIAO

Zhang Renhong, a 22-year-old junior at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, was found lying on the floor with a belt around his neck on the morning of July 7. Hong Kong police said he did not leave a note, but that his death did appear to be a suicide.

Family and classmates described Zhang as profoundly depressed during his sophomore year. He was anxious about poor grades and afraid he would be unable to graduate, friends and family said.

Zhang did seek psychological counseling to learn to manage the pressure, but he died before his scheduled therapy could begin.

On July 8, another student attempted suicide in Qingdao, Shandong province.

The girl, aged 16 and unnamed by police, was found standing outside her fourth floor window and crying. While neighbors and police banded together to persuade her to come down, her father showed up and called her a gutless drama queen.

After being grabbed by police, the girl said her parents had abandoned her to live with her grandmother and that the family did not allow her to attend school.

Teenage suicides and suicide attempts are on the rise across the country. Where high buildings and subways are not available, students turn to ingesting pesticide



Photo by sina.com

or self-immolation.

Why Suicide?

National statistics report that more than 3 million Chinese teens have sub-average mental health. More than 250,000 of them die each year.

Jin Haiyan, a psychological doctor at Shanghai Ruijin Hospital, said the reasons for suicide are varied, although many are academically related.

From kindergarten to college, Chinese schools evaluate students primarily on their scores. A 2014 report titled "The Situation of China's Education Development" by 21st Century Education Research Institute said that as many as 70 percent of primary and middle school student suicides are related to academics.

The report blamed this phenomenon

on the country's exam-oriented education system.

A high school student Xiaolei (pseudonym) committed suicide before the recent National College Entrance Exam. Xiaolei's class schedule was published after her death, which to a certain extent revealed what most high school students are facing.

Apart from a short time set aside for gym, lunch and rest, Xiaolei spent 14 hours studying and preparing for tests every day.

The increasing focus on tests reflects a social preference for "excellent students." Each year after the exams, news headlines focus on the personal stories of China's top-scoring students.

But a second and growing problem is family troubles.

Psychologist Liu Changhui said that more than 80 percent of the mental problems faced by students are related to parents. More than 40 percent of the children from divorced households have considered committing suicide, Liu said.

But even when parents stay together, children may be left to their grandparents. Suicide threats become a tool to draw attention from neglectful parents.

Poor communication and guidance are another factor. Chinese parents routinely put down their own children and compare them to their peers.

But Zheng Xinrong, a professor at

Beijing Normal University, throws the blame for suicide back at the students.

In an interview with the *People's Daily*, Zheng said that most teenagers live a comfortable life and sheltered by their families. "In the past, when feeding oneself was hard, people wanted to survive and knew that life was preciousness. With regular food and countless diversions, children never become aware of the value of life," he said. "They are left with fragile minds and vulnerable hearts."

The *People's Daily* went on to blast "modern comforts" for cultivating a generation of stubborn and fatuous children.

Seeking Solutions

Two days after the Hong Kong suicide, a spokesman of the school said the campus offered its own psychological assistance service and that students were free to appear for regular checkups.

Most schools in China said the same.

But with the stigma attached to mental illness, few students are willing to seek out psychological help.

China Youth Daily said that the Ministry of Education's 2012 guidelines called for all schools to have at least one psychologist on staff.

But it is hard to find statistics about whether this has actually happened. The most recent analysis on teen suicide was published in 2001, and that analysis was based on data from the mid-1990s. ■



Photo by CFP

War on IP Piracy Comes to Mobile Games



Photo by aiwanduo.com



Photo by www.hao76.com

BY SHU PENGQIAN

From music, to phones, to reality TV, China has built a reputation as the world's most notorious copycat.

While the government has made some strides in cracking down on piracy in these established industries, the mobile video game industry is seldom mentioned in reports on the state of intellectual property.

That changed this month, when Snail Game released a statement alleging that the popular mobile game *The Journey of Flower* is a blatant knock-off of its own *Taichi Panda*.

Based on the popular TV series of the same name, *The Journey of Flower* was created by Skymoon and promoted by the streaming media site iQIYI. The popular TV series brought the game to fan attention, and it was soon ranked third on the iOS best-seller list.

"We demand Skymoon and iQIYI halt their distribution and apologize. *The Journey of Flower* should be taken offline and removed from every mobile game channel, otherwise we will file a suit to fight for our interests," Snail Game wrote in a statement.

In spite of common wisdom, such lawsuits are becoming increasingly frequent in China.

In late 2014, Beijing Chukong Technology was accused of copyright infringement for its mobile game *Tianzhijie*.

In January, Blizzard Entertainment and Net Ease sued Chengdu Qiyou Technology for plagiarism in its *Au Star of Warcraft*. The two companies also sued Unico Interactive for the company's *Crouching Dragon Legend*, an alleged copy of *Hearth Stone*.

Theft to Cut Costs

Among domestic mobile game makers, intellectual property theft is typically employed as a cost-cutting strategy.

"Developing a new game is time-consuming and expensive," said a game developer who refused to be named. "For developers, it's a brain-wasting process to design characters, content, systems and effects."

In the journey from pitch to production, most game makers carry out a comprehensive market study to learn about player preferences. Faced with the data, professionals deduce what creative changes would be required to make their game stand out from the competition.

The Chinese market is a highly saturated mess of the good buried under the very bad. Without a highly focused promotion strategy, it's almost impossible for new games to gain ground in the mobile market.

Intellectual property theft offers one hopeful shortcut. "Once a new game is created, other game developers can copy the model and

attract players quickly," said Yu De, a Baidu columnist.

Yu pointed to TiMi Studio's *Craz3 Match* as an example. "The game is in vogue among mobile phone addicts, so you will see various similar games pop up in the blink of an eye. Most have only minor differences in content and setting. The worst just swap the main character," Yu said.

In a sense, game developers' success in the mobile market depends less on innovation than speed and marketing.

Few players care who creates the game: most focus on whether the game is interesting or fun. Creators who don't invest enough in marketing can easily lose their idea to an effective pirate.

For small companies seeking an easy business, it's worth risking a lawsuit to steal a proven model.

Fighting Infringement

Although game creators strive to safeguard their copyrights, infringement remains rampant in the mobile arena.

Part of the problem is that well-executed piracy stands to earn far more than it can lose in a court battle.

Free of development costs and with half the marketing work already complete, imitators can turn a substantial profit on a much smaller investment during the short time their game survives in market.

Even when the original creator brings a lawsuit, pirates face little risk. Typical court battles drag on for at least six months, far slower than the churn of the mobile market. For the pirate, a legal loss is only the loss of a stale product.

For original developers, the slow legal system serves as an energy-wasting and money-wasting fight. In most cases, companies who seek to enforce their intellectual property rights exit the battle as net losers.

But China is slowly waking up the fight against intellectual property theft.

Future of Mobile Games

Though frequent theft remains China's shame, it is in a way contributing to the industry's long-term development.

"While I don't expect Snail Game will win its suit, at the very least they are drawing attention to the problem of intellectual property theft in the game industry using the popularity of the TV series," wrote an online commentator.

"We are not only looking out for our own interests. We want the whole industry to wake up and fight back," Shi Tao, the vice president of Snail Game, told *DoNews.com*.

"If no one faces punishment for this kind of theft, who will have the confidence to develop original games in the future?" he said. ■



CFP Photos

Art Majors the New Cash Reserve of Training Industry

BY YANG XIN

Summer vacation is a stressful time for students who are beginning their preparations for the 2016 National College Entrance Exam for Arts.

A recent survey by the China Youth Daily Social Investigation Center found that among 1,874 respondents, 61 percent said they saw art students attending training classes before the exams. Nearly 70 percent said the courses were priced excessively high, and 40 percent said such “art training” classes are nothing but scams.

But for art college applicants, whether to splurge on special training courses is a heavy decision.

Disordered Training Market

Tuition fees vary considerably among training agencies.

“Training agencies are not like public schools or normal units that accept the government’s unified pricing guides. Different classes have different costs, and the difference between an elementary and advanced art class may be 5,000 to 50,000 yuan,” a training school teacher told the *Legal Evening News* in February.

The uneven costs indicate the chaos in China’s art training market.

Dahe Daily investigated several training agencies in Zhengzhou province at the end of 2014. Its findings were quite shocking.

A training studio near Jiangshan Road was described as “a shabby hutong with one 30-square-meter room for its 30 students.”

When asked how it managed to get its business approved, the head of the training studio said “one of our teachers is the director of the city’s Culture Center. All

I need to do is please him. No one would dare to inspect us.”

Another training studio on Wenhua Road is found in a housing estate. Its students are packed into an even smaller area.

“We call it a ‘Three No Agency’: no classrooms, no qualified teachers and no educational certificate. So what? We offer practical classes. If you don’t like it, get out,” said a spokesperson for the company.

Taohua Village is known as an Art Village with hundreds of art training agencies scattered through the Yuelu District of Changsha, Hunan province. In a secret inquiry by Hunan Radio, the Art Village was revealed to be less artistic than it seems.

Insiders told Hunan Radio the area had more than 200 art exam training agencies. Only 33 are approved by the local education bureau.

Boya Art School, one of the 33 qualified agencies, was found not to be employing the dozens of star teachers featured in its brochures. The school had only two long-term teachers, both of whom were undergraduate students.

One undergraduate art student in a local university in Changsha said he was invited by a training agency to teach at the schools. “I know I’m not qualified to teach. But all the training agencies recruit students in place of actual art teachers,” he said.

The industry’s “no pass, no fees” slogan

is another similar scam.

Li Nan operates an art training agency in Tangshan, Hebei province. “Frankly speaking, the promise of ‘no pass, no fee’ is a straight-up lie. They make the promise because the exams they refer to passing are the provincial-level unified art exams, which seldom fail anyone,” she said.

More advanced players use their art school connections to directly leak the year’s questions and answers to students.

“I saw one of the students beside me fill out the answer sheet even before the teacher handed him his paper,” said Xiao Pei, a 2015 candidate for the art exam.

Social Catalysts

The increasingly deceptive practices of such training agencies have spawned many legal disputes.

“Business activities are only allowed when the organizer possesses a business license. Training agencies are no exception. In reality, the market is dominated by illegal training agencies with no certificates from the relevant departments,” said an employee of the Administration for Industry and Commerce in Fengtai District who did not wish to be named.

The schools survive due to a poorly planned and weakly implemented legal framework.

“There are no rules or regulations from

the government that say how such training agencies should be supervised. Because of this, you can’t say the schools are breaking a law that should result in a specific punishment,” said Ji Xuyu, a lawyer at Beijing Kunlun Law Firm.

Experts also point to the mercenary admission practices of universities and high schools.

“Adding new art majors is the trend in higher education. A major motive is the relatively high tuition fees the school can collect. Even the exam fees cost more for students who are on the art track,” said Liu Haifeng, director of the Institute of Education at Xiamen University.

A report by China Art Talent Net found that the number of art colleges more than tripled to 1,697 in the last decade. The student enrollment count – a paltry 32,000 in 2002 – has exploded to more than 1 million.

In some provinces, more than 20 percent of the students who sit the National College Entrance Exam are art applicants.

“The fierce competition is directing applicants to training agencies, thus the booming art exam training industry. But society does not need so many freshmen who are majoring in the arts,” said Liu Haifeng.

High schools disorder the market in other ways.

“High schools, especially those do not possess high-quality educational resources, persuade students to study art during their junior year to boost their college enrollment rate,” said Xu Siming, a professor at Shandong University of Art and Design. ■



Students practicing in a shabby training studio



Photo by CFP

BRICS Bank Follows the AIIB Launch

BY YANG XIN

The signing ceremony to establish the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was held in Beijing on June 29. Inked by representatives of the 50 founding members, the AIIB is

expected to launch within this year after all 57 member nations complete their own approval processes.

The US and Japan have declined to join. To keep distant from the AIIB, Japan will cooperate with Asian

Development Bank (ADB) and inject \$110 billion in high-quality infrastructure investments, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported.

According to the bank's articles of incorporation, China will hold more

than 26 percent of the voting rights at the AIIB.

"Given that some important decisions at the bank require the support of 75 percent or more votes, China will ultimately have "veto power" over major decisions of the new Beijing-led bank," the *Wall Street Journal* said.

AIIB's purpose will be to "foster economic development, create wealth and improve infrastructure connectivity in Asia - and promote regional co-operation." The bank will provide infrastructure funding for the development of transportation, telecommunications and other projects within the poorer regions of Asia.

Some view the AIIB as a rival to the US - and Europe-led World Bank and the Japan-led ADB. It is also said to be confronting another new 'rival' - the New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS nations.

The 7th BRICS summit on July 8 launched the \$100 billion NDB bank, which intends to complement the World Bank and fund infrastructure projects in the bloc and some other developing economies.

According to the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, in Asia - the main battlefield for infrastructure construction with an expected investment demand of \$8 trillion by 2020 - the NDB could possibly stand as a strong competitor to the AIIB.

Parties involved are more optimistic.

The NDB does not consider AIIB as a competition and will "collaborate and cooperate" with AIIB, said the newly appointed NDB President, KV Kamath.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying agreed with Kamath in a media briefing, stating "the two banks will complement and reinforce each other and jointly contribute to infrastructure in the developing countries and play their different roles in this regard." ■



KV Kamath, NDB President

Photo by Reuters

The British Embassy's Announces First Open House



Photo by CFP

BY QU CHAONAN

The British Embassy in Beijing is hosting its first open house from 2 to 4 pm at the ambassador's residence on July 18.

Aimed at Beijing residents between the ages of 18 and 35, the embassy expects some 350 guests to attend. Planned activities include talks, films, music and food. For visitors, it's a chance to engage the embassy staff in casual conversation about their work and opportunities for travel, study and life in the UK.

To celebrate the 2015 Year of the Sheep, the popular British animated series *Shaun the Sheep* is being screened as a bridge to link China and the UK.

At the March 2 launch ceremony for the first year of Chinese-British cultural exchange, Prince William came to paint Shaun's eyes in a commemorative sculpture. Visitors and Chinese celebrities came to take photos with the 50 different Shaun the Sheep sculptures on display at the embassy.

The sculptures have been on a national tour since May and will return to the UK in October. The embassy said the sculptures would be auctioned off: all money raised would be donated to help disadvantaged children gain access to art education.

British designer Thomas Heatherwick's spiral chair will also be on display. Hailed as the British Leonardo Da Vinci, Heatherwick received the royal industrial medal in 2004. ■

(Qu Chaonan is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Photo by CFP



Photos by cnarts.net



Beijing Today Membership Card

Best Club is recruiting new members!
Founded by Beijing Today Media Center in May 2003, the club has planned member events for the APEC Summit Meeting, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the World Cup. Best Club is a bridge that connects China with foreign countries and offers a rare opportunity for members to join in international events.



1

Join cultural, art and social activities held by embassies and international cultural organizations!



2

Experience enjoyable activities!

3

70 yuan for a year's print paper!



5

Regular raffles to access to high-end social events

4

Camping in suburban Beijing.



Membership Benefits

1. A Round-the-World Tour

Visit the British Council, Goethe Institute, Instituto Cervantes, German Embassy and Royal Danish Embassy for a look at life abroad.

BesT Club receives the latest information from each embassy and international cultural institution operating in China. Members can join any cultural, art or social activity held by participating organizations free of any charge.

2. Free Tickets

Don't spend your weekends at home. They are the best time to experience the capital's booming live drama and music scenes.

Get free information and tickets to performances by indie musicians and theater companies for participating BesT Club events.

3. Preferential Subscription Price

Club members can enjoy a discount on print subscriptions to *Beijing Today*, now just 70 yuan per year. Don't miss this opportunity.

Meanwhile, the free e-Digest and website remain open to members and non-members alike.

4. Camping in BYCI

Beijing Youth Camp International (BYCI) is the Chinese capital's first youth camp. The relaxing venue offers simulated Counter Strike games, rock climbing, camping and fruit picking.

Leave the noisy city behind for a weekend of nature!

5. Pennies from Heaven

BesT Club holds regular raffles and randomly assigns prizes to club members.

6. Newsroom Open House

BesT Club opens the Beijing Today office to interested visitors each year. During the open house, members can visit the paper, learn about how it was produced, and see how its print edition and video content comes together.

7. BesT Escape

Save 50 percent when playing any of the rooms by Omega, Asia's largest room escape operator. Attempt to escape from Hogwarts, a "Holy Prison," the dream world of Inception, and the mad clown's Psychiatric Ward.

Each escape scenario will test the group's wit, wisdom and ability to solve problems as a team.

(By Shu Pengqian)

How to Enroll?

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